

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 18, 2013**  
**6:30-8:30pm EST**  
**LMAS District Health Department, Newberry, MI**

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*Chair: Dick Pershinske   Vice-Chair: Glenn Moll   Secretary: Tom Buckingham*

**Council Members Present**

Tom Buckingham	Michael Lawless
Phil Dennis	Glenn Moll
Jim Duke	Dick Pershinske
Al Garavaglia	Chad Radka
Jason Garvon	Jim Shutt
Gary Gorniak	Sara Wall
Tim Hass	

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Bill Becks	Bernie Hubbard
Gary Ellenwood	Mike Patrick
Ginny Giddings	Richard Serfass
Jim Hoy	

**Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons**

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette  
CO Brett Gustafson, Law Enforcement, Newberry  
Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations, Newberry  
Craig Krepps, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming  
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry  
Jon Spieles, Education & Outreach, Newberry  
Bob Burnham, Forest Resources Division, Newberry  
Stacy Welling Haughey, Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Marquette

**Call To Order**

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**. Introductions of Council members were made.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Buckingham motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Hass seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Ellenwood, Ms. Giddings, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Patrick and Mr. Serfass. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if there were any corrections to the minutes as presented; none were raised. **Mr. Lawless motioned to approve the February 21, 2013 EUPCAC Meeting minutes as submitted; Mr. Buckingham seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent:**

**Mr. Becks, Mr. Ellenwood, Ms. Giddings, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Patrick and Mr. Serfass.**  
**Motion carried.**

### **Chair Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** indicated he recently attended Senator Casperson's hearing in Lansing regarding the wolf bill which gives the NRC the authority to set seasons and ties in appropriations. He also mentioned the ballot issue. He encouraged the Council to thank Senator Casperson for his efforts with this bill and to follow the legislation. **Chair Pershinske** stated he and his neighbor also testified in regards to depredation occurring on farms. A Wolf Advisory Council meeting will be held next week, which will further fine-tune the DNR's wolf proposal. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that at this time, three districts for a hunt were recommended, all in the Upper Peninsula, with a total of 43 wolves (originally 47 was recommended, but it was lowered after reviewing completed survey results). **Chair Pershinske** stated since he's been back from those meetings, he's had 4 media contacts.

### **Public Comment**

- Mr. Stephen King discussed the dredging project at the Naubinway Marina and stressed his frustrations about the project's history. He feels that unless the problem is fixed (i.e. building a breakwall) money utilized for dredging year after year is wasted. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** asked him if had been in contact with the Corps of Engineers, who was involved in the project, or the DNR's Park and Recreation Division; he stated he had not recently talked with anyone from either source. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated Director Creagh met with Mackinac County officials this week and the issue was discussed. She indicated she would contact those involved and obtain a project update. **Mr. Garavaglia** indicated he asked Director Creagh if trust funds could be utilized for a breakwall; however, he indicated that it must go through the Waterways Fund.

### **Reports**

1. **Stacy Welling Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mrs. Welling Haughey** added a few updates to her written report.
  - She welcomed Mr. Dan Blough from Congressman Benishek's office in the audience.
  - In preparation for the land management plan, the Director was in the U.P. for two days meeting with county officials from four U.P. counties regarding state land ownership. Of the top 10 counties who have the most state ownership, four are in the U.P. (Dickinson, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft). She indicated the state owns 4.6 million acres of land. The largest percentage of this land was tax reverted land, which is land reverted back to the state when taxes weren't paid. The meetings went very well. County officials were shown what state land was in their county, were asked what they would like to see going forward and what their priorities are as a county. Mr. Garavaglia, Council member, participated in the Mackinac County meeting.
  - Public meetings are being held across the state regarding the land management plan, including one this evening in St. Ignace.
  - She informed the group Mrs. Munson Badini, DNR Deputy Public Information Officer, gave birth to a beautiful daughter and will be on leave through the summer.

- In anticipation of her leave beginning in June, **Mrs. Welling Haughey** announced that Mr. Jon Spieles will be acting in her position during that time.
- 2. **DNR Division Reports:** Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on April 11, 2013. The following are current updates or comments.
  - **Terry Minzey, Wildlife:** **Mr. Minzey** stated the prolonged winter will have an effect on the deer herd, as they are already seeing some mortality. As a result, he stated a more conservative approach will be given to the antlerless harvest this year. He noted the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance (UPSA) had their quarterly meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> and, although this group initiated the antler point restriction issue, they voted 14 to 12 to support staying with the current restrictions. The Upper Peninsula Deer Advisory Team (UPDAT) will most likely discuss this at their next meeting.
  - **Jon Spieles, Education & Outreach Division:** **Mr. Spieles** indicated he did not have any further updates to his report. He noted he will juggle his current duties with the additional duties of covering for Mrs. Welling Haughey.
  - **CO Brett Gustafson, Law Enforcement:** **CO Gustafson** stated he did not have any updates to Lt. Hagy's written reports.
    - **Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any new conservation officers; **CO Gustafson** indicated there are several openings and they are hoping to have one or two new officers on the east end.
    - **Dr. Garvon** asked how many officers are being added; **CO Gustafson** replied they are hoping for up to 25 new officers to keep up with promotions and retirements. There are currently three counties in the state with no officers.
  - **Steve Scott, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Scott** noted there were several public meetings regarding fishing regulations held around the U.P. They were well attended and had good conversations.
    - **Chair Pershinske** asked for an update on the cormorant program. **Mr. Scott** stated the US Department of Agriculture received the same amount of funding from Congress as last year, plus an additional \$100,000 for cormorant control, and he anticipates good control efforts this year as a result. Last year, almost 11,000 adult birds were killed and the colonies are being reduced. **Mr. Garavaglia** asked how many eggs were oiled; **Mr. Scott** stated he didn't have those figures, but they are going down.
  - **Craig Krepps, Parks & Recreation:** **Mr. Krepps** noted he is attending on behalf of Mr. Tom Paquin, who is taking over the east end from Mr. Rich Hill. He stated campgrounds are slated to open on April 19<sup>th</sup>, however, with the current weather, the date is being put on hold. Two state forest campgrounds destroyed by the Duck Lake Fire will be open by Memorial Day.
  - **Bob Burnham, Forest Resources:** **Mr. Burnham** stated he was attending for Mr. Jeff Stampfly and had no additions to Mr. Stampfly's report.
    - **Mr. Radka** asked if there was any information in regards to the sale of the Newberry airport. **Mr. Burnham** stated it was a straight sale. Generally, how the land was initially acquired is reviewed and most likely straight sale monies go to the land development fund. The land was conveyed for \$1 with the State reserving the timber for a given time period.

- It was asked if timber harvest was still continuing at the Duck Lake fire area. **Mr. Burnham** indicated there is still more timber to be harvested; however, they had to pull out due to weather. **Mr. Spieles** indicated it was mentioned the harvest was 80% complete. **Mr. Burnham** stated there is a plan to reforest about 1,300 acres where there isn't a seed source; replanting is planned for spring. **Chair Pershinske** asked Mr. Hass about the status of the Two Hearted trail; **Mr. Hass** stated there is about 1 ½ miles of trail to lay out and it will happen when the snow has cleared. He has a photographic record of the trail and area growth if anyone is interested in looking at it.

### **Old Business**

1. **Agenda Survey Topic #2/Forest Management Activities:** **Chair Pershinske** stated there was some interest in forming a forestry subcommittee at the last meeting. **Mr. Moll** indicated that a subcommittee was formed and includes Council members Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Radka, Mr. Buckingham, and himself. Anyone else interested are more than welcome. The group will meet to develop some assignments on topics such as state forest growth, harvest, mortality, statistics, ownerships (individual and collectively), forest practices, etc. If there are any questions or requests, please contact Mr. Moll. The group will plan to have a report for the next meeting.
2. **Wolf Update:** **Mr. Minzey** provided an update on the wolf management plan and current status. He stated the 2013 population survey has just been completed and the population estimates from 2011 to 2013 are down by approximately 29 animals. They are suggesting a wolf hunt to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC).
  - **Chair Pershinske** asked if there was a percentage of animal increase across different areas; **Mr. Minzey** stated that information was not yet available; however, the counts were fairly stable.
  - **Mr. Radka** asked what caused the decrease in population. **Mr. Minzey** stated there are many factors that can play a role, such as movement to neighboring states, natural population swings and high mortality amongst young pups due to starvation, disease, etc. Below the bridge, the survey is not nearly as intense as the U.P.
  - **Mr. Garavaglia** asked what the hunt numbers would be; **Mr. Minzey** indicated that harvest recommendations include 8 for Luce/Mackinac County, 16 in the far west end of the U.P., and 19 in an area east of Lake Gogebic. These are recommendations only; the NRC will make the final approval.
  - **Mr. Minzey** noted that there will be a special meeting from 1-4pm on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the day before the regular NRC Meeting, with presenters from Wisconsin and Minnesota who will provide information regarding their wolf management plans and hunts. A press release will be out soon and will be emailed to the Council. At the May 9<sup>th</sup> NRC meeting, they will make a decision on the wolf hunt. He stated the recommendation is 43 animals out of an estimated 658, 5% of the population over 15% of the land mass of the U.P.
  - **Chair Pershinske** stated the Wolf Advisory Council will be meeting next week (April 24) and the recommendations will most likely be the primary focus of the meeting. He asked if there was a recommendation on how licenses would be issued and if trapping would be

included; **Mr. Minzey** described the two licensing options that were presented to the NRC for consideration. He also stated that trapping on private land only is being recommended.

- **Mr. Moll** asked about tribal response to the recommendations. **Mr. Minzey** stated they have had direct meetings with the Tribes throughout the process and they are aware of the consent decrees, which allows hunting for management purposes. He described the importance of the wolf to tribal history. Mr. King from the audience noted the consent decree only encompasses five Tribes, and does not include the Tribes in the western U.P.
- **Chair Pershinske** stated he was impressed with what was happening in Montana as they started out with a very low take and they gradually increased it and now it seems to have leveled off.
- **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated she will email a map of the proposed hunt areas to the Council members.

3. **Proposed License Fee Increase Package Update/Change:** **Mrs. Welling Haughey** reported a full presentation was provided on the Governor's recommendations for a proposed license fee package at the Joint UPCAC Meeting in March. She stated the proposal has been continually changing as it goes through legislation. For example, there were initially 31 different licenses and now there are 39. A combination hunt and a non-resident fishing day license were added. Some of the pricing has also changed. If anyone is interested in seeing the current changes, she has a copy available. She will continue to update the Council as changes are announced. For those that have a strong feeling one way or another, they should contact their local legislators or let DNR staff know.
  - **Mr. Garavaglia** asked if the ORV pricing is still the same; **Mrs. Welling Haughey** replied that she is not aware of any change from the original proposal.
  - **Mr. Minzey** indicated that a duck stamp was added to the proposal.
  - **Mr. Moll** asked if the ORV registration will be through the Secretary of State. **CO Gustafson** stated that the proposed registration process will be similar to snowmobiles. The trail permit will be the same as it is currently.

### **New Business**

1. **Agenda Survey Topic #4/Income & Recreation:** In regards to Mr. Ellenwood's request at the last meeting to hear more about programs provided with gas and oil royalty payments, **Mr. Krepps** provided handouts and explained charts showing the breakdown of funding from oil and gas leases and royalties to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Park Endowment Fund appropriations, and state park appropriations and expenditures. Revenue from oil and gas revenues (100%) go to the Park Endowment Fund. From the Park Endowment Fund, 50% of oil and gas revenues, excluding investment earnings, are transferred to the fund corpus. For FY2013, a total of \$18.76 million was appropriated to the State Parks budget from the Park Endowment Fund. This is only a portion of the overall funding for the State Parks budget. Other funding comes from private funds, Park Improvement Fund, grants, Recreation Passport fees, and ORV Trail Improvement, totaling a \$56.3 million dollar budget for FY 2013. Of this entire budget, 33% (18.76 million as mentioned above) of state park operations are funded by oil and gas revenues through the Park Endowment Fund.

- **Mr. Moll** asked for clarification of the different types of funding; **Mr. Krepps** explained further and discussion ensued. **Chair Pershinske** indicated that if a more in depth presentation is needed, it can be added to a future agenda.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked if the funding in this particular section of the DNR is adequate at this point or would there be shortfalls. **Mr. Krepps** replied the Parks and Recreation Division can always use more funding, especially in capital outlays. One area that suffers the most is the old failing infrastructure; there is currently \$300 million worth of infrastructure needs. **Chair Pershinske** asked if there was an overall plan to improve the infrastructure; **Mr. Krepps** stated improving the infrastructure will take time and it will depend on the amount of funding available each year.
- It was questioned where the money to administer the oil and gas program comes from; **Mr. Krepps** replied operational funding comes from the Minerals Section of the DNR, which is appropriated through the Park Endowment Fund.

**Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any other inquiries relating to the topic Income and Recreation. **Mr. Moll** indicated his particular interest in this area was deer license funding and the need to generate more revenue to operate the program; it's finally moving forward through the proposed license fee package. He also discussed the need to support the increase in fees for ORV's and registering them like snowmobiles. **Mr. Lawless** indicated the trail permit is separate from ORV stickers and registration. **Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if they would like to support a resolution relating to the license package. It was stated that although it is going through legislation and changes are being made, support for the concept of an increase can be proposed. **Mr. Buckingham** motioned the EUPCAC support the concept of increasing fees for licensing as well as other items included in the original proposed license fee package; **Mr. Lawless** seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: **Mr. Becks, Mr. Ellenwood, Ms. Giddings, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Patrick and Mr. Serfass.** Motion carried.

2. Agenda Survey Topic #5/Accountability: **Chair Pershinske** began discussion relating to accountability for the Council. He indicated that it may be time to create an evaluation system to determine if the Council is living up to its expectations and to the charter with the DNR. He stated there were parameters developed some time ago by the WUPCAC and it might be valuable for the EUPCAC to review/revise those; **Mrs. Welling Haughey** will send a copy of them to Chair Pershinske. **Mr. Scott** asked if departing members have been asked to comment on their Council experience; **Chair Pershinske** replied it hasn't been done, however, those he spoke to afterwards did not relay any specific dissatisfaction. **Mr. Lawless** stated it would be helpful to review a list of action plans the Council has put forth since inception; **Mrs. Welling Haughey** replied a list of resolutions is kept and will be shared with the Council after the meeting via email. In regards to how the DNR feels about the Council's progress, **Mr. Duke** indicated the DNR on many occasions gives the Council kudos for doing what they do. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** added that a full review of both Councils was performed internally according to the bylaws. She explained the value of the Councils and gave a historical perspective. She encouraged members to let her know how the DNR can be more effective for them. **Mr. Hass** stated the agenda topics discussed at meetings may not seem like they go anywhere, but the information garnered at meetings do carry over providing members an opportunity to have

input in other realms of the DNR, like being included on a conference call with the trail plan for example. He noted information from this Council is shared with outside groups frequently.

- **Mr. Scott** added that there will be public meetings to review the current forest management plan; in Newberry, the meeting will be held on May 14 at the Comfort Inn from 1-4pm for those who previously commented on the plan and from 6-9pm for the general public.

### **Next Meeting**

1. **Next Meeting Date:** **Chair Pershinske** noted the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be held on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Inn Conference Room in Newberry.
2. **Topics for Next Agenda:** **Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any topics for the next meeting's agenda. It was suggested that brainstorming for new topics be added.

### **Public Comments**

- **Mr. Stephen King** suggested the Council make a list of accomplishments for accountability. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** indicated a list has already been created, and provided Mr. King with a copy.
- An audience member asked about the funding earmarked for the Silver Lake ORV recreational area; **Mr. Krepps** replied that these funds came from the Park Endowment Fund.

### **Closing Comments from the Council**

- **Mr. Garavaglia** stated before he was on the Council, the Council was helpful to his community regarding the campground fees and there is a lot of interest in his area regarding wolves. He appreciates what the Council has done.
- **Mr. Duke** stated he appreciates what he has heard at this meeting; however, in regards to the self-evaluation, he asked if anyone has heard negative comments about the Council. **Chair Pershinske** stated he has not, from the communities or the DNR. At Council meetings, there are candid discussions with staff members without any consequences and he appreciates staff being here.
- **Mr. Moll** stated he felt the Council was of value to the DNR and stakeholders, and it's all volunteer time. There is time spent putting together the reports for the Council and it's very helpful to receive them. **Chair Pershinske** agreed, stating it is a good tool to take back to stakeholders and encourage communication or seek input.
- **Mr. Lawless** noted one observation in that it takes time for things like the CAC to evolve with relationships and communication. Early on, the Council was reactive as it heard about things after the fact. He feels it has evolved into something where the Council is now more pro-active. For example, the licensing package is a prime example; the Council received the information in the early stages and was able to give feedback. The Council has evolved into a better working group. **Chair Pershinske** stated he has seen an improvement in the communication coming back from the DNR; **Mr. Lawless** agreed. **Mr. Scott** added the Council has a responsibility to disseminate the information from the meetings back into the community and the DNR sees an important value in that aspect.

- **Mrs. Welling Haughey** added if there is anything the DNR or staff can do more effectively for the Council to let her know.
- **Chair Pershinske** shared that he as Chair and the staff have a short post-conference review after each meeting to discuss any follow-up needed, etc. A pre-meeting is also held before each meeting to talk about upcoming agenda items. It was asked if there were any value in including the Vice-Chair and Secretary at these meetings; **Chair Pershinske** stated they are more than welcome to attend.
- **Mr. Minzey** stated in regards to the value of the division reports mentioned previously, the submission for the Wildlife Division in those reports are also shared at the Wildlife Coalition meetings. He feels there is a very good working relationship with the EUPCAC. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** noted the division reports are sent to U.P. legislators as well.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm EST.

Approved 6/20/2013